(b) and (c) Any person, including farmers can make an application in the prescribed form for grant of permit for establishment of a rice mill by giving particulars regarding location, size and type of the rice mill and such other particulars as may be prescribed.

(d) Working of modern rice-shelling machinery at present is as efficient as available in other parts of the world except for some special equipments needed for production of export quality rice.

Supply of verified seed of cotton in Andhra Pradesh

2110. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a mixed variety of cotton crop is prevalent in Guntur and Prakasam Districts of Andhra Pradesh without coinciding with any specific variety;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what steps are taken to supply certified seeds in that area; and

(d) what is the share of certified seed in the total consumption in those districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) There is no practice of growing mixed variety of cotton crop in Guntur and Prakasam districts of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) State Government arrange for supply of certified seeds in that area largely through their State Seeds Corporation and Private Seeds Agencies.

(d) Share of certified seeds in these districts is about 30 per cent of total consumption of seed.

Adoption of orphaned children in Maharashtra

2111. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a UK-based Guru Missionary has offered to adopt children orphaned by he Maharashtra earth-quake;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Guru Nanak Blind Missionary Society, London, U.K. has offered to provide support to 25 children orphaned in the recent earthquake in Maharashtra. According to them the proposed support will include funding for education, boarding, clothing, food and general expenses involved with the upbringing of the children.

(c) The matter is under examination in consultation with Government of Maharashtra.

Creation of National Oil Grid

2112. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the N.D.D.B. had planned for creation of a National Oil Grid; and

(b) if so, what is the present state of progress in relation thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. NDDB has planned for Creation of a National Oil Grid.

The programme envisages linking the major oilseeds producing areas with the

demand centres by (i) creation of oil Storage capacity at strategic locations; (ii) establishing packaging stations across the country to pack edible oil; (iii) developing economical transport system to move oilseeds and oil from surplus to deficit zones. As part of this plan NDDB has created oil storage capacity of 2.31 lakh tonnes and oil packaging capacity of 2.53 lakh tonnes per annum. The grid related infrastructure would continue to develop over the years.

Appointmtnt of operating Consultants to study State Farms Corporation of India

2113. MISS SAROJ KHAPARE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had recently appointed operating Consultants for undertaking a diagnostic study of State Farms Corporaton of India;

(b) if so, what were the recommendations of the consultants regarding the State Farms Corporation of India;

(c) whether Government have since implemented all those recommendations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Operating Consultants have been appointed under the National Seeds Project (NSP III) for undertaking a diagnostic study of the State Farms Corporation of India. The major recommendations of the consultants relate to the following:—

(i) Identification and achievement of defined corporate objectives;

(ii) Strengthening of organisational structure with appropriate and skilled manpower.

(iii) Identification and development of training needs and policy.

(iv) Development of appropriate short and long-term production, sales and marketing strategies.

(v) Development of improved systems of budgeting, accounting and financial management.

(vi) Provision of performance appraisal system and operational reviews.

(c) and (d) Recommendations of the Operating Consultants wich require action on the part of Government relate to provision of financial assistance which is being madt.

Area under cotton cultivation

2114. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has the largest area under cotton cultivation in the World;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its break-up State-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the cotton yield per hectare is lowest in the country;

(d) if so, the reasons to the low yield; and

(e) steps being taken to improve the yield?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total area under cotton cultivation in the country during 1992-93 is estimated at 75.43 lakh hectares. Its